

VIETNAM COURIER

Information Weekly — E.O. 4b Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

Oct. 13

1969

No. 238

6th Year

In this issue:

A Letter to Uncle Ho

(from members of President HO CHI MINH's personal staff)



President
HO CHI MINH
and the
POLITICAL BUREAU
during the
DIEN BIEN PHU
campaign

Nixon Troop Withdrawal Plan, an Unworkable Trick

THE Nixon administration is trumpeting its "decent" end to the Viet Nam war. On September 18, before the UN General Assembly, the US President declared that the United States had been exerting great efforts and that it was up to the other side to respond to it.

In all its propaganda stunt, the US has focused on the "troop withdrawal plan", calling it a notable step to the door to peace. This ploy was inaugurated on May 14, 1969, when Nixon proposed to pull out a major part of US and satellite forces within 12 months. On June 9, Nixon declared at Midway that the first batch of 25,000 US troops will take out of South Viet Nam by late August 1969, and on September 16, he announced the withdrawal of 35,000 additional troops, that is, 60,000 would be withdrawn before December 15, 1969.

The Nixon-type troop withdrawal does not in the least prove US "goodwill". All US propaganda has failed in gaining for it significant support at the United Nations meeting and in deceiving the public in the United States.

The Nixon administration has failed in its maneuver to stop its criminal continuation of the aggressive war in Viet Nam, and to put the blame on the DRVN Government and the Republic of South Viet Nam Proletarian Revolutionary Government for the marking time of the Paris Conference.

THE withdrawal of US troops is certainly a fundamental question in the settlement of the Viet Nam issue. As it has committed troops to an aggressive war against Viet Nam, the US must pull them out quickly, totally and unconditionally. This is a simple demand that any sensible man would make. But the Nixon is *not* the man to do it. Nixon is *not* a demonstration of the desire to end the war; instead it is a transparent move to whitewash its criminal war intensification. In fact, the US still keeps over half a million troops in Viet Nam and, during his months in office, Nixon has been stepping up the war, increasing the rate of B-52 bombings and terror raids to the highest level ever and pursuing chemical warfare and piling up

(Continued page 2)

South Viet Nam

- A Big "Sweep" Beaten Off in Ben Tre Province: 500 Enemy Casualties, 11 Choppers Downed.
- 48 Military Vehicles and Hundreds of Adverse Troops Put out of Action in Two PLAF Ambushes, One Southeast of Saigon.
- Two US Encampments Northwest of Saigon and South of 17th Parallel Stormed: 230 GIs and 33 Military Vehicles Knocked Out.
- Over One Hundred Targets Hit by PLAF Artillery and Infantry (Oct. 5, 6 and 7).

Mr Ha Van Lau:

Mr Nixon Has Shown Utter Contempt for Public Opinion

At the 37th session of the Paris Conference, Ambassador Ha Van Lau, US DRVN representative, strongly played US design to prolong the war in Viet Nam.

Analyzing Nixon's plan for "de-Americanization" of the US, and his demands for US troop withdrawal, Mr Ha Van Lau pointed out: In fact, the Nixon administration still wants to prolong the occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops and US imperialism there.

He then called statements by leaders of the student movement in the United States that the peaceaccord was the right of the people of South Viet Nam to choose their leader, and many US military officials, to accuse the US of being a capitalist, bellicist, and corrupt Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration.

He added that broad sections of world and American public opinion had supported the peaceaccord of the South Vietnamese National Front for Liberation, and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam for the formation of a provisional government, entrusting it with the organization of general elections throughout South Viet Nam.

Mr. Ha Van Lau said that Nixon not only was clinging to his aggressive stance but also trying to spread the belief that the US would not accept any conditions whatsoever bringing back American boys and servicemen from Viet Nam "alive" and not in coffins, totally and not partly, rapidly, and not dragging.

Criticizing Nixon's September 29 statement that "What is not negotiable is the right of the people of South Viet Nam to choose their own leaders without outside interference, either by us or by anybody else", Mr. Ha Van Lau said:

It is known to everyone that since 1954 there has not been any administration in South Viet Nam, from Ngo Dinh Diem to Thieu-Ky-Khiem, which was not created and fostered by the US to carry out US new-type colonialism in South Viet Nam. Mr. Ha Van Lau pointed out the terms of the congressional conference on the military budget and national priorities made in Washington at the end of the US."

Nixon Troop Withdrawal Plan, an Unworkable Trick

(Continued from page 1)

barbarous crimes against the South Vietnamese people. One wonders when can the war be brought to an end if the aggressors' troops are pulled out by dribbles, at the rate of sixty thousand men in 6 months? As Senator F. Church remarked on October 8, with the present token scale of withdrawal, American troops would be engaged in Viet Nam for the next 8 to 10 years.

In his May 14, 1969 speech Nixon made a vague declaration that he would bring home a large part of US and satellite troops within 12 months, but remained silent about what he would do later. He has hitherto refrained from fixing a timetable for the total and quick withdrawal of troops. On June 19, Nixon will serve three criteria" for the total troop pull-out, namely:

First, "an increase in South Vietnamese army's military potential." This is sheer illusion, in the view of even US military officials. Secondly, "a reduction of enemy activity." This is also downright absurdity because it means the US wants the Vietnamese people to scale down their fight against aggression while intensifying the war.

Thirdly, "Progress in the Paris talks." This is another piece of nonsense because it is the US which has driven the Paris Conference into a stalemate by sticking to its aggressive and neo-colonialist stance and obdurate attitude.

The US is persistently pressing for its utterly absurd claims for "mutual withdrawal" and "reciprocity" which has been categorically rejected by the Vietnamese people as "strongly condemned" by the progressive public opinion in the US and in the world, because it puts on a par the aggressor and the one who resists aggression, and asks for reward for aggression.

Mr. Ha Van Lau pointed out that Vietnamese people aspire to nothing but independence, freedom and real peace, and want to live in friendship with all the other peoples in the world, including the American people. The US, controlled by the DRVN Government and the PRG of the RSVN which Nixon has repeatedly termed "rigid" and "principled", the American people are eagerly expecting from Nixon because they meet the legitimate interests of the US."

To withdraw troops in the Nixon fashion is a scheme to impose peace and unconditional withdrawal of troops, it is but a redeployment of forces, a trick to go on with the aggressive war in a new form through "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization".

A Letter to Uncle Ho

(From Members of the President's Personal Staff)

October 3, 1969

Dear Uncle,

SINCE you are gone, we have been counting each day. Just one month has passed! How quick time flies, dear Uncle, and it wrings the heart of everyone of us to think that this time you are away for long, for you left without telling when you would return...

You went, leaving oodles of love to everyone...

Your recommendations, how thoughtful and complete they are! Each time we read your last message, we feel as though we were hearing your voice making recommendations, and giving advice to us. We choke with tears but also feel proud of you!

One thing is clear: Nixon's attempt to create a "safety valve" by withdrawing troops piecemeal to relieve pressure at home has failed. The American people's movement for an immediate end to the US aggressive war in Viet Nam is surging to new highs.

Nixon has also failed to hurt back the waves of protest in the Congress. The "grace period" was already over.

In mid-September, Senators Goodell (Republican) and Lowenstein (Democrat) who had started a "Dump President Johnson" movement declared their readiness to move into high gear in a "similar campaign to complete US withdrawal by the end of 1970." Fulbright declared that "public sessions" would start in late October to help Nixon find "a way out of the Viet Nam mess."

As far as we miss you, the harder and better we work so as to be worthy of your thoughtfulness. The house you lived in and even the paths you walked on, we still keep them neat and clean. But, dear Uncle Ho, this is not to welcome you home as we used to in the past when you were absent; this is to welcome the people and cadres, especially the comrades and people from the South whom you often thought of on their visit to your house when the country is reunified... And it is certain that our friends from abroad, too, like to visit us.

We miss you very much, Uncle. We remember that, though advanced in years, you worked all day, unwilling to relax. We remember the time of your meals. We remember the times when you strolled in the garden with the serenity of a fairy in a tale.

Please, Uncle, allow us to reminisce on one of your work days.

Dear Uncle, when you were still at home, one would hear at 5:30 a.m. the radio you were listening to in the bedroom of the small wooden house. Each time you heard the news on good people and good deeds, you always told us to fetch the bulletin for you to check and send details to those who had been commended.

You went downstairs (President Ho Chi Minh used to live in a small house on piles near the Presidential Palace.—Ed.) to do the morning drill. Seeing you perform the movements of a traditional boxing exercise, we were filled with joy and were sure you would live many more years.

Your breakfast was simple. Sometimes you would have a bit of bread and a little jam, sometimes a bowl of rice soup with sugar. Dear Uncle, since you departed, the cook and table attendants always wait for you with vacant eyes when comes the time for your meals.

As a rule, 7 a.m. was the time you began to work with cadres or to receive guests. It was tiring for you, we thought. But you told us that with such early appointments you would have plenty of time afterwards for other businesses.

When you wanted some department to report progress, you would without delay ask the comrades directly responsible for it to come and would talk with them in a very concrete and practical way.

When it was cold you would remind people everywhere to look after the old and the children,

remind the co-ops to feed and tend buffaloes and oxen well. When it was below 10 degrees C, you would remind the teachers to allow the children to stay at home... When it was hot, you would remind people to bring refreshments to the anti-aircraft gunners... You showed great concern about the consolidation of the Party branches, the full exercise of democracy, and the constitutions of the co-ops. Coal mining, too, was an object of your constant attention. Harvesting of rice crops, combating of typhoons and floods, tree planting and afforestation, digging of air raid shelters and trenches, all these tasks you always urged people in time to do well... Lastly, you paid keen attention to the "good people, good deeds" movement.

After interviews with cadres or guests, you would spend the rest of the morning reading, you hearing digests of documents, newspapers, bulletins. When some idea occurred to you, you would jot it down in your notebook so that you would at meetings tell people of it or check upon it. First of all, you would read the Party's newspaper and would tell comrade Hoang Tung (Nhan Dan's Editor-in-Chief—Ed.) immediately to learn lessons from shortcomings, if any. It was you who told the newspapers not to forget to insert the paragraph: "We welcome all criticisms by our readers!" right on the frontpage.

You also read local newspapers and papers of various branches. You would look through them very quickly without missing any interesting detail. You had quite a flair with news reports from the South and the world. When reading local newspapers and papers of various branches you never failed to praise achievements and remind them to correct mistakes.

Before lunch as well as dinner, you would walk some hundred metres. Your meals were

very frugal. You were fond of ca kho (fish stewed in fish sauce—Ed.) flavoured with ginger leaves. From time to time, people offered you bean sauce from Nam Dan (President Ho's native district—Ed.) or dried fish from Dong Hoi (capital of Quang Binh province—Ed.). You always showed great temperance. Sometimes when the cadres came to have meals with you, they were overjoyed to see you eat with appetite.

At noon, you would have about an hour's nap. Then you would resume work, taking notes, or writing papers. In the afternoon, cadres from the Party Central Committee often came to report to you for about an hour.

After dinner, you would again read books or newspapers. You said it was your habit and reading was the kind of recreation that suited you best.

At night, you read books and listened to the radio till half past ten when you switched off the light.

In the last few years, when not very busy with work, you would meet once, or twice a week with the Political Bureau. And in spare time, when documentary films were available, you would spend about an hour seeing them on Saturday evenings.

JUST one month has elapsed, Uncle, and you have not come back.

But we wish to report to you that your house and your garden continue to be kept the way you always wanted them to be.

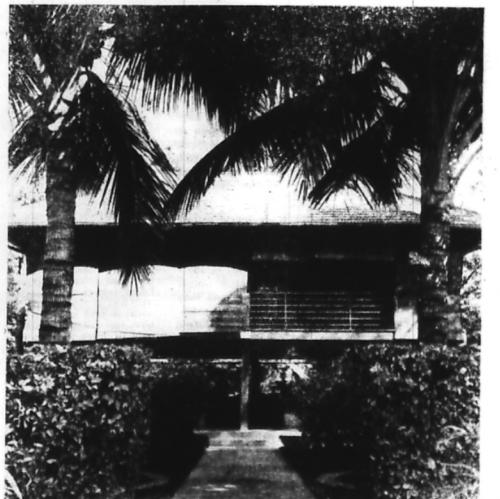
Emulating other branches in carrying out your ultimate instructions, we pledge ourselves to be a hundred per cent efficient.

You will live for ever with our mountains, our rivers, our Fatherland, and will for ever remain the pride of the entire Vietnamese nation which is successfully resisting the US imperialist aggressors.

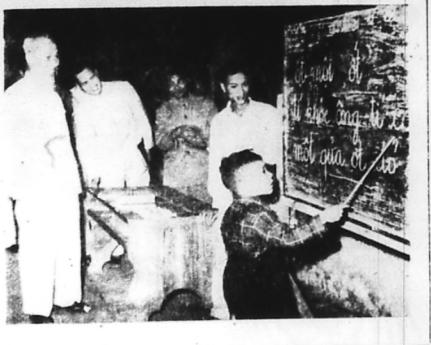
Respectfully yours,

NGUYEN KIM

and all the other comrades of your personal suite



UNCLE HO's dwelling house near the Presidential Palace in Hanoi



15th Anniversary of Hanoi Liberation
(Oct. 10, 1969)

CAM BINH: A Pearl in DRVN Education

by HO TRUC
Vice-Minister of Education

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

CAM BINH is a village in Hanoi, Ngan district, Ha Tinh province.

Before the August Revolution (1945) the people led a miserable life under French rule. They had nothing to eat, and many of them lived on beggars. Many people left their barren lands and went away to hire themselves out as laborers in plantations ("coolies" or coal miners), never to be heard of again in most cases. In the early 1945 famine, 350 starved to death.

In 1954, after the Geneva Conference, complementary evening classes and infant classes are developing at a steady and well-balanced rate. Cam Binh ranks first in North Viet Nam for all-sided education.

THE PEOPLE

A visitor to Cam Binh will be told many interesting stories. Formerly, there were very few houses; now there are many, mostly made of wood and bamboo. Over half the cultivated area is tractor-ploughed and harrowed. Eight years ago, the State still had to supply Cam Binh with 20 tons of rice every year; now, the village is able not only to meet its own needs but also to sell 80 tons of rice to the State every year. Formerly, the people shared with their cattle tumble-down shacks; now, all boast new wooden houses with beds, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, and the cattle are kept in separate sheds.

Socialist man is an orderly way of life prevalent in the village. A mass literary and artistic movement is in full swing.

The above-described changes in the Cam Binh people's

material and spiritual life are due to socialist education. Over the last years, through the American aggressors' attacks, the village no less than 250 times, dropping nearly 5,000 tons of bombs, yet 61% of the villagers never stopped going to school. One-fourth of a century ago, 98% of them were illiterate; such a shameful state of things has been a thorn in the flesh of the "thousand good deeds." They have set up "Young Pioneers" cooperatives, which run clubs, which teach hygiene, discipline, self-effacement and optimism are encouraged.

Young men and women will command their visitors to study and their resolve to overcome all obstacles to perform any task that may be assigned to them. Examples of revolutionary heroism have been set in revolutionary heroism. Learning of her brother's death on the field of honor, a young girl took up arms and joined the armed forces in order to save her family and country.

(Continued page 7)

"The Thousand Good Deeds" and "Young Shoot Co-op" movement has been started by the Young Pioneers. It is intended to encourage the children to perform good deeds in accordance with Uncle Ho's five precepts: "Love your country and compatriots; study well and work well; unite with the masses; observe good hygiene; be modest, honest, and courageous."

"The Young Shoot Co-op" raises the children into an organization where they engage in production which fits their age, are educated in the love of labor, and study, and self-management.

Hanoi Fifteen Years After Liberation

In fifteen years, the building area has doubled compared with eighty years under colonial rule.

In 1954, the total value of industrial output rose ten times over the colonial period. Since 1955, during the US war of destruction against the DRVN, the yearly increase was maintained at 12.5 per cent.

In suburban districts, 85 per cent of farm land have been irrigated. In 1957, the annual rice output grew to 5.7 tons per hectare (for two crops yearly) as against 1.3 tons for one crop yearly under the old regime. 66.6 percent of peasant households have joined agricultural co-operatives now all at high-level.

In 1954, the volume of retail trade (State sector) increased 20 times compared with liberation time.

Compared with the 1955-1956 school-year, in 1967-1968 enrollment in infant classes went up over 5 times, that of general education schools over 3 times and that of higher education establishments 33 times. Besides, each year 80,000 grown-ups attend complementary classes.

Between 1958 and 1969, for each inhabitant 30 books on the average were printed.

Compared with 1956, the number of medical establishments and hospital beds has tripled 5 times and that of medicine doctors and assistant doctors 17 times.

Each inhabitant attends ten theatrical performances a year on the average.

Up to October 10, 1969, the Hanoi armed forces and people downed 265 US predatory planes.

A s the aim of education is to train men and women who will continue the great revolutionary work of our Party and people, all government departments, Party organizations and regional administrations at all levels must pay even greater attention to it, show more solicitude for the schools in every respect, and help forward education.

(Excerpt from President Ho Chi Minh's October 15, 1958 Message to cadres, teachers, workers, employees, parents and students in infant schools, general education schools, complementary education classes, secondary vocational schools, colleges and universities on the opening of the 1968-1969 school year)

President Ho Chi Minh visiting a pre-school class in Hanoi

1,400 Women Jailed in Thu Duc Prison Put to Savage Torture and Beating: Many Fatalities and Many Maimed for Life

- Special Communiqué of the Committee to Denounce US-Puppets' War Crimes in South Viet Nam -

THE Thu Duc prison, 12km from Saigon, is a real hell on earth. The more than 1,400 women illegally detained there have to live in crowded wards in hunger and thirst, without medical care, and are frequently put to torture in torture chambers and right in their wards.

On orders from US bosses, the puppet administration, from the Diem-Nhu brothers formerly to the Thieu-Ky-Kien clique at present, has tried to brainwash political prisoners through "democratic" courses and the salute to the Saigon flag. Their aim has been to terrorize the recalcitrants and force the others to give up their patriotic ideal.

The same methods have been applied in the Thu Duc prison, and have met with a stiff resistance from the women prisoners. In retaliation, the jailers have suspended imprisonment although no evidence could be produced to support the charge against her.

Following many previous bloody waves of repression, on July 1 this year started another terror campaign against the female inmates, specially those who were against the "denunciation of communism" courses and the salute to the Saigon flag. They resorted to such barbarous methods as stuffing their mouths and eyes with caustic lime, breaking their teeth, slashing their faces, pushing skewers into their genitalia, or throttling them to death.

Many who were inflicted the lime-torture or beatings lost consciousness and later became disabled for life, such as Mea Tran Thi Ngan, Nguyen Thi Cam, Nguyen Thi Canh, Nguyen Thi Huu, and Mae Tu.

Among those receiving blows and kicks in their sexual organs in addition to the above-mentioned tortures, Tran Thi Lieu, Pham Thi Bach Tuyet, Ho Thi Uy, Nguyen Thi Lai, Quach Kim Anh, Tran Thi Hong Loan, Nguyen Thi Hanh, Pham Thi Mai, Nguyen Thi Nhan, Nguyen Thi Hien and Pham Thi Duc.

The torturers thrustred sticks into the privy parts of Miss Le Tu Cam (a student), broke the teeth of Miss Nguyen Thi Bay (a teacher) and slashed the faces of To Thi Tam and Nguyen Thi Bich.

On August 16, Tran Thi Binh, 18, was stripped naked and ordered to parade before her torturers. Then the latter tied her hands to her own nipples and feet to her hips, and all their strength. Then she was laid on the ground. Quy and Nhan, two of the jailers, forced her legs apart and Captain Duong Ngoc Minh, the chief warden, savaged her genitals with a sharp-edged stick. After that, the others took turns in rapping her till she fainted.

The same day, ten of the inmates - Tran Kim Cuc, Trinh Hong Quan, Vo Thi Anh, Nguyen Thi Lan, Nguyen

To placate the prisoners, Lieutenant Colonel Luyen, director of Chu Hoa, and Lieutenant Colonel Sen, representing the puppet military court, and the deputy director of the Thu Duc prison made a verbal promise to meet their demands, declaring that they would stop the beatings and terror and punish the murderers and those who started the general sympathetic action.

On August 21, the enemy summoned many of the strikers to the warden's office, where they beat them up savagely. As a result of many days of ordeal, Nguyen Thi Tan and Dang Thi Ran died that very night. (Nguyen Thi Tan, 42, had been arrested on May 25, 1968 at the Ba Hoa post; Dang Thi Ran, a girl of 16 in Binh Phuoc village, Thu Duc district, had been sentenced to one year of suspended imprisonment although no evidence could be produced to support the charge against her).

As the other prisoners did not let them take away the two bodies, the enemy dealt even more savage beatings. Khong Que Kinh, 24, a Chinese resident, was killed on the spot. Many other women were seriously injured. More cruel still, the chief warden ordered his men to take off the clothes of Nguyen Thi Tan, and he himself trampled on her body and face in order to intimidate the remaining women.

In the wake of the premeditated bombing of the Tay Ninh prison on June 19, 1969, resulting in nearly 100 inmates killed or wounded, the slaying of nearly 500 political prisoners in Poulo Condor in February and March 1969, the bloody repression of hundreds of inmates of the Tan Hiep Hoa prison (Bien Hoa) in April 1969, and tens of thousands of other bloody acts of repression in prisons all over South Viet Nam, these new crimes of the US-puppets in Thu Duc prove that the enemy are frantically pushing up their fascist repressive measures against patriots in their lands, along with the accelerated "Phoenix" campaign which, in fact, is a drive of intimidation and assassination against patriots and any one opposing them.

These new crimes of the US-puppets coinciding with their intensified terror raids, the devastation of large populated areas by B-52 aircraft, and the use of war gas and noxious chemicals against civilians and crops, spell out the fact that in their death throes the US-puppets are stopping at no method, however barbarous, to cow the South Vietnamese people, stave off their own collapse, and carry out the US imperialists' design to occupy and dominate South Viet Nam."

The statement concluded:

"The ruthless suppression of the defenseless detainees by the US and its puppets has exposed the brutal nature and cowardice of the US aggressors and the incompetence and utter isolation of the traitorous Saigon puppet administration."

5

Military Operations

- ◎ A Big "Sweep" Beaten Off in Ben Tre Province: 500 Enemy Casualties, 11 Choppers Downed.
- ◎ 48 Military Vehicles and Hundreds of Adverse Troops Put out of Action in Two PLAF Ambushes, One Southeast of Saigon.
- ◎ Two US Encampments Northwest of Saigon and South of 17th Parallel Stormed: 230 GIs and 33 Military Vehicles Knocked Out.

END of September and beginning of October, PLAF continued to inflict severe losses on the enemy.

In Ben Tre province (mouth of the Mekong River) puppet Infantry Division 7, exhausted by a series of PLAF attacks on Sept. 1, suffered heavy setbacks on Sept. 21. The PLAF, supported by *Giai Phong* Press Agency, a big sweep launched by 2 regiments and 4 companies of that division backed by a puppet mechanized battalion and with stiff resistance in the *Mo Ca* district, took south-southeast of Saigon: the enemy took 200 casualties and lost 11 choppers. Two battalions of Regiment 1 were heavily decimated.

The same agency reported that the PLAF had won another battle on Road No. 15 (from Bien Hoa to Hung Tau) about 10 km southeast of Saigon. After a fierce fight on that road, an enemy motorized column had 30 men and 30 vehicles put out of action.

Sept. 30, an enemy encampment reserved for infantry and armored units at

4 km east of *Dau Tieng* (6 km northwest of Saigon) was stormed by the PLAF who knocked out 120 enemy troops and 22 vehicles.

In the southwest of the enemy harassed in his dug-outs from October 1 to 5 had 150 men disabled, 12 military vehicles destroyed and 8 armored vehicles captured and northeast of Tam Lam (Hue). The biggest success in that period in that sector was won on Oct. 3 near *Cao Tien* where the PLAF overran the US strong point of *Gia* of Brigade 101, Airborne Division 101, put out of action, 11 tanks and armored cars and 3 106-mm mortars wiped out.

In the Western High Plateaux, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported that an enemy motorized column was waylaid on Road No. 11, 27 km north of Pleiku. On Oct. 3, the enemy suffered serious casualties and was forced to retreat, putting all its strength to *Gia* of Brigade 101, Airborne Division 101, put out of action, 11 tanks and armored cars and 3 106-mm mortars wiped out.

PLAF operations against enemy targets were most violent on Oct. 1, 5, 6 and 7. Western agencies reported, Thus the HQ of US marine Division 3 at Long Ha,

south of DMZ and a unit of US Airborne Brigade 173 near Qui Nhon were bombarded by the PLAF in the small hours of Oct. 4. The hundreds of victims came under fire (3) on Oct. 5, 39 on Oct. 6, and 21 on Oct. 7, including the HQ of Brigade 1, US Infantry Division 1, US Marine Corps, First Cavalry Division of Tay Ninh province northwest of Saigon, many positions in the provinces of Can Tho, An Giang and Bao Lieu (Mekong Delta), Binh Long (northeast of Saigon), Binh Thuan (east-northeast of Saigon) and Quang Ngai (Southeast of Da Nang).

During that period, Western agencies noted out: PLAF infantry units which had been made chiefly against units of US Infantry Division 25 in Tay Ninh region, US Infantry Division 1 in Binh Phuoc, US Marine Corps Division near Qui Nhon, US Infantry Division 4 near An Khe (edge of the Western High Plateaux), US Light Brigade 101 near Quang Ngai and US Airborne Division 101 near Tan Leng.

S

Captured American Pilots and International Law

DO XUAN SANG

US officials such as McLean, Lord, James Hittle, Cabot Lodge, etc., have been trying to save the day for the DIA in its efforts to capture American pilots who they claim are POWs deprived of the benefit of the dispositions of the *Treaty of Geneva Convention*.

However, the captured pilot emerges as in no way POWs in the juridical sense of the word but ordinary criminals and, if you like, major criminals.

The captured US pilots have come and bombed a sovereign country, a neutral country with which the US is not juridically at war, and they did know it. They have destroyed schools and hospitals, killed defenceless old-age pensioners, children to finally have them downed, land in jail, available for Vietnamese law.

Article 15 of the Geneva Convention on the high seas dated April 29, 1949, defined as piracy any unlawful act of violence committed for personal purposes by the crew of a private ship or aircraft directed on the high seas against another naval or

aircraft or against passengers or property onboard, etc.

According to Article 16 of the same convention the crew of a warship or aircraft or an aircraft who will have mutinied, gain control of this ship or aircraft and have committed illegitimate acts of violence as defined in Article 15 above mentioned Article 15.

Does it mean that should a warship or aircraft commit crimes in the name of the country and on orders of superiors, the crew would be exonerated all from responsibility and punishment?

The Convention on the high seas is silent on that score. Most luckily, this gap can be filled by the general principles of positive international law.

It is known that according to Article 6 of the Statute of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal aggression is an international crime. Justice Birkett, the British member, pointed out in one of the historic statements of the court that launching a war of aggression was not only an international crime, but the supreme

international crime, differing only from other war crimes in that it includes them all.

All aggressions, colonial or neo-colonial aggression is the most odious because committed against a weaker obviously weaker and incapable of giving tit for tat.

Colonial or neo-colonial aggression is of the same nature as piracy. It is in short piracy, a national seizure under the name of the colonizing or neo-colonizing state and condemned by the resolution of the UN 13th General Assembly on the necessity of putting an end to colonialism under all forms.

The dirty and atrocious war waged by the US government against Viet Nam without the consent of the international community is aggression, a violation of the World Lawyers' Conference at Grenoble and decisions of the B.Russell International Tribunal.

(Continued page 7)

Uncle HO's Picture

The story published below took place somewhere in the enemy-controlled area in South Viet Nam.—Ed.

AFTER a successful night engagement, I lost my way in the dark in a vast garden devastated rather by an enemy sweep on the previous day than by our battle. It was pitch dark and I met nobody to ask for my way.

I remained on the look-out in a corner to wait for daybreak. When it was light, a heart-breaking sight offered to my view: truncated tree trunks, shell-craters and here and there completely demolished houses. Not a living soul! Not a bird, not even a twittering of birds. I came out of my hiding place and saw smoke rising from behind a bush some hundred metres away.

I went in that direction and saw a hut (it could hardly be called a hut for those remained only a roof full of holes and supported by charred poles). The mistress of the house, about thirty, was cooking rice. Black smoke spiralled up from wet logs. The woman seemed surprised by my appearance.

"What do you want?" she asked me.

"Without waiting for my reply, she went on tenderly and tearfully: "Oh! Uncle Ho, beloved Uncle!"

Without even asking or my permission, she snatched the photo from my hand, peered at it, enraptured. Then she helped me dry the photo and wrapped it carefully in a piece of plastic.

From then on, she was full of attention for me, asking me whether I was hungry, where my family lived, how I had lost my way, what was my latest news about Uncle Ho... She called me 'brother' instead of 'Sir'."

"You will have a meal from the blue. I was most distressed. Was it possible that the local people were bought off by the enemy to such an extent? I scanned the faces of the woman for a while and when I saw that she looked neither wicked nor deceitful, I pulled myself together and said, "But... I am a fighter."

"I don't mind what you are, sir. Go away, or you'll get into trouble. My husband will be back soon."

"Your husband is a soldier of..."

"What did you say?" she interrupted me abruptly. "He is a honest man. Get out of here and tell you."

I did not get out. Her words were rather pleasant to me. I had hal-hal no doubt that my question would infuriate her; this gave me the assurances that she was a woman whom I could trust. I understood her caution so vital for

those living in enemy-occupied areas; far from being offend-ed, I took great pleasure in her.

I quickly came in and sat by the fire. She did nothing to prevent me from doing so. Nor did she say anything. I buckled down to undoing my knapsack to dry my linen soaked by last day's rain. I took especial care of Uncle Ho's photo which I always received at an anti-fighters' congress of the patriotic emulation movement. I took it out, wiped it and had a look at it.

She had been watching every move of mine. Suddenly she drew near me, gazed at me, with tears in her eyes. She asked me in a soft and timorous voice: "How did you get hold of that photo?"

Without waiting for my reply, she went on tenderly and tearfully: "Oh! Uncle Ho, beloved Uncle!"

Without even asking or my permission, she snatched the photo from my hand, peered at it, enraptured. Then she helped me dry the photo and wrapped it carefully in a piece of plastic.

As she knew that I had Uncle Ho's portrait on me, he asked me to let him see it and insisted at length on keeping it as a gift from me, saying: "You've had it for a long time. And certain your mates also have similar pictures. Here we have always been longing to have one like that."

With a regret mingled with pleasure I complied with his wish. Like a child, he jumped for joy and pressed the photo against his chest, exclaiming:

"I'll never part with this treasure!"

VIET NAM COURIER